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Letter dated 8 May 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 5 May 2000, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lord **Robertson**

Appendix

Monthly report to the United Nations Security Council on SFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (13 March-12 April 2000), there were just over 23,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. SFOR troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in theatre by means of ground and air patrols. Operations across the SFOR area included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the Entity Armed Forces (EAF), conducting weapons storage-site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre, and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation HARVEST 99 which has been prolonged.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. SFOR also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

4. On 3 April, SFOR troops in Multi-National Division (South-East) detained a Bosnian Serb, Momcilo Krajisnik, indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.[1] Krajisnik was subsequently transported to The Hague.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

5. Over the reporting period, the situation remained relatively stable, with the Entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the peace agreement. The farmers' demonstration in Multi-National Division (South-East) between Gorazde and Kopaci continued well into the reporting period, with an apparent agreement reached after a meeting between the mayors of the two towns.

6. Other demonstrations and protests related to land distribution, and evictions took place in Multi-National Division (North) at Janjari, Ugljievik, Bijeljina and Brcko, but they passed without violence. In Multi-National Division (South-West) an anti-evictions rally in Bos Novi was dispersed by local police.

7. Some sporadic violent incidents did occur, mainly involving explosions of grenades and other ordnance. In Multi-National Division (South-West) on 21 March at Prnjavor, a grenade was thrown through the window of a house, injuring the owner. Also on 21 March, in Drvar a house was burned down; on 23 March in Banja Luka a device exploded under a trailer at a cattle market; on 2 April in Prnjavor grenades were thrown into a restaurant, causing extensive damage; on 8 April in Glamoc an explosion took place in a bar; on 9 April in Kotor Varos an explosion blew out the front of a building. No injuries were sustained in these incidents.

[1] The Russian Federation confirms its special position on this matter.

8. In Multi-National Division (South-East) on 8 April near Rajlovac, an explosion of an anti-personnel mine left in a refuse bin injured two people. On 9 April at Vraca, Sarajevo a mine exploded, killing three children. In Multi-National Division (North) on 3 April in Modrica a hand grenade, believed to be thrown from a passing vehicle, exploded in front of the lead vehicle of an SFOR patrol, causing minor injury to an SFOR soldier. The perpetrator was not found.

9. Over the reporting period, SFOR troops conducted 370 military weapons storage-site inspections. No violations were reported.

10. SFOR monitored 1,029 training and movement activities: 288 Bosniac; 59 Bosnian Croat; 573 Bosnian Serb; and 109 Federation. The training and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in force until further notice. The training and movement ban on elements of the 3rd Bosnian Serb Army Corps was lifted by Multi-National Division (North) on 20 March. A training and movement ban imposed on an element of the Bosnian Serb Army, after an eviction incident on 24 March in Bijeljina (Multi-National Division (North)), was lifted one day later.

11. There were three unauthorized checkpoints established by local police in Buna, Bijeljina and near Travnik during the reporting period. All three were removed by the International Police Task Force (IPTF) and SFOR.

12. During the reporting period, 90 mine clearance activities were monitored, and between 13 and 15 March, SFOR provided a demining course for the Entity Armed Forces (EAF) counter mine teams.

Cooperation with international organizations

13. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), IPTF, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, OHR, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

14. Over the period, SFOR responded to requests from UNHCR to support minority returnees and refugees. During the month of March 5,347 minority returns were reported, and SFOR monitored 3,185 house cleanings and assessment visits.

15. Municipal elections were held throughout Bosnia, with the exception of Brcko, on 8 April, with SFOR providing support to preserve safety and security. SFOR assisted local police to maintain freedom of movement for voters and OSCE personnel. An initial analysis indicated overall voter turnout at approximately 70 per cent.

16. The 20th meeting of the Standing Committee on Military Matters (SCMM) took place on 3 April and addressed the further reduction of 15 per cent in the Entity Armed Forces (EAF) due to be achieved by the end of 2000. This planned reduction follows the 15 per cent reduction achieved at the end of 1999. In addition, SCMM discussed the planned participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations of 15 EAF military observers (five from each major ethnic group) who were due to be trained and deployed later this year.

17. SFOR continued to provide assistance to OHR to open airfields in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although theft of equipment at Sarajevo international airport impaired the instrument landing system, security measures have been implemented to prevent any recurrence.

Outlook

18. SFOR restructuring is expected to be complete by the end of May.